

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of February 7, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Richard Burke VY2RB

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Bill Glydon VY2LI

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Tracy Allen VY2TAZ

Rich Hews VY2WTF

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Joey Ronaghan SWL

Charles Easter VY2CE

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Maggie MacEachern VY2MMM

Graeme Brown VY2WT

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Brian Gorveatt VY2BG

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

George Meggison VY2GM

William Caw VY2CAW sent his apologies.

Bill VY2WM asked if there was any knowledge of persons sick or silent keys.

None noted.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of January 3, 2023 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that Julia VY2JA had not sent last month's minutes to all members due to an oversight. Any questions should be directed to Bill or Julia. Going forward, Julia will make sure to email out the prior month's minutes alongside the Agenda before the meeting.

Business arising from the minutes:

Bill VY2WM reminded the club that William VY2CAW had stepped down as the RAC PEI Section Manager and that the role was currently vacant. Bill has volunteered for the position and was interviewed last week. Bill or Julia VY2JA will inform the club of the outcome.

President report:

Bill VY2WM spoke about the CARC Discord Server that he set up following a successful online experience by the Fall 2022 Course members. On the club Discord server are many interesting sections (channels) such as Buy and Sell, Net Discussions, and Repeater Info. Email invitations have been sent out to all members and many have already joined. As Discord invites only last for about a week, anyone who hasn't yet joined and would like to do so, please email Bill at bill@vy2wm.ca.

Bill said that the Soldering Workshop that was held at the new library on Jan 21 was a success with 14 participants and quite a number of other members who helped out. Bill thanked Fraser VY2FA for being the lead instructor. Bill suspects that the library would likely want to run another soldering workshop, but he's not yet spoken with them. He also said that the club has donated the soldering workstation that George VY2GF had previously gifted the club to the library.

Bill then talked about the NGO Council that consists of non-governmental organizations such as the Salvation Army or the Samaritan's Purse that get involved in emergency situations. Thanks to William VY2CAW who was the RAC PEI Section Manager at the time the amateur radio community is now also on the committee. Bill VY2WM who may be taking over from William as RAC PEI Section Manager has a meeting with PEI EMO on Thursday, Feb 9, and a meeting with NGO on Friday, Feb 10. Bill will share what he finds out with the club.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that as at the end of January 2023 he had received payments for three tuition fees for the March Basic Course (\$150) and five study guides (\$250). He also reported that a total of \$210 had been received from members for the 2023 club membership: ten paying members and eight graduates of the Fall 2023 Basic course whose membership is free for this year. Expenses are \$3.75 and there is a \$10 amount connected to the Summerside club.

Charles explained that Autodeposit now works and that the problem was connected to his email address. He reminded the members that membership fees are due before June 2023.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by Richard VY2RB that the financial report be approved. Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that 16 students had signed up for the Spring 2023 basic course, which is now closed. The course is to run for 16 weeks every Monday and Thursday from March 2 until April 24. Micah VY2MIC has updated the webpage to allow people to put their names on a waiting list for a possible Fall 2023 course.

As two COAX study guides were left over from the last course, the club needs to purchase a further 14 books prior to the start of the course.

Bill VY2WM informed the members that 14 study guides would cost approx. \$700-\$800, which requires a vote by members. The course organizers would like to order 16 or 17 books to have some spares. The idea was put forward that it may be possible to offer used books for new students. It was decided to purchase new books at this time.

Brent mentioned that some students had shown interest in an Advanced Course. Instead of a formal group, he suggested a more informal study group that would consist of students and elmers. Bill VY2WM suggested that the group might be able to meet at the new library, where free meeting rooms are available. To book a room in advance the library charges a fee of ~\$15/hr with discounts available for non-profits. It was decided that the group would self-organize. The group would use the COAX Advanced Study Guide, which they would order as a group rather than individually. Rick VY2WTF asked if the advanced books could be

ordered at the same time as the basic study guides. It was decided to order them at the same time but separately. The advanced books would not be purchased through the club.

The members then unanimously approved a maximum spending limit of \$900 for the Basic Course study guides.

Moved by Richard VY2RB, seconded by Rick VY2WTF that the club would spend up to \$900 on buying COAX basic course study guides.

Motion carried.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that there was no trouble with the repeaters over the course of the coldest day. The iciest time of the year will be in March.

The issue with the link to NS is ongoing. Ron gave NS detailed instructions on how to upgrade their end a year ago, but nothing has yet been done. UHF fade is dramatic. Ron has increased power at our end with the result that the repeater is now able to pick up a repeater in Maine. Overall, the system is 99% reliable.

Ron mentioned that the repeater in Montague gets a little warm after 2 hours. He will take a closer look in the summer.

The Glen Valley remote repeater was at -19C inside the repeater shack with no problems. It's very reliable.

Correspondence:

None other than some emails between members.

New/Ongoing Business

Bill VY2WM said that Ricardo VY2AN had a very successful winter field day and had received an RAC certificate. As he was in a park he also activated Parks on the Air. It was decided to start planning for summer field day (June 24-25, 2023) now and to set up a committee for this purpose. The committee is to poll the club to see what sort of a field day members want. Brent VY2HF suggested that there may be two efforts for field day, one where stations use generators and another that solely relies on battery power. The club usually joins up with the Summerside club for field day and alternates the location from the west side of PEI to the east. This year

we'll be taking the lead. Bill asked if there were any volunteers for the committee. Graeme VY2WT, Ricardo VY2AN, Brent VY2HF, and Tracey VY2TAZ volunteered to form the Summer Field Day Committee. They are to report any movements at the monthly meetings. There is also a Field Day section on the Discord server.

Moved by Bill VY2WM, seconded by Rick VY2WTF to create a Summer Field Day Committee.
Motion carried.

Information Exchange:

Ricardo VY2AN gave a presentation on alternate power, in particular solar battery systems.

Bill VY2LI adjourned the meeting at 9PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President